

February 14, 2019

The February 14, 2019 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Jim McMekin, Robert Jewell, Marin Martin, Ruth Pante and guest Mayor Joseph Watters. Excused were Dawn Smith and Glenn Todd.

### Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting, seconded by Ms. Martin; all in favor.

Rain Gardens: Mr. Tarlowe reported on his correspondence with Gary Pohorely, a trustee of the Musconetcong Watershed Association, regarding three detention basins along Rt. 57. He provided Mr. Pohorely with contact information for the property owners. The project would be an effort to reduce stormwater runoff into the river and increase esthetics. The project would be a good fit for the goals of the William Penn Fellowship Foundation which is expected to fund the project if it is deemed viable. This was discussed with the Mayor who said any such effort must be okayed by the property owners, approved by the engineers (water calculations, etc.) and should improve function. Mansfield Township does not own the properties under consideration; property owners generally do not challenge such an undertaking unless there is an expense. There are questions and concerns.

Grant applications: Ms. Smith was not present.

Mason Bees: Ms. Martin stressed the need to determine agricultural needs of the area, particularly the need for pollinators. Including the whole township in this endeavor was stressed by educating the public about raising and propagating bees. Ms. Martin shared a packet of her research information and suggested Commission members read and develop a place to start, develop a timeline, and to that end she offered to do an open presentation to begin the education process. In the meantime, Ms. Martin will contact ANJEC to seek research items from that office and to learn about the possibility of a grant. Members were reminded to get Township Committee permission for establishing bee colonies in public areas.

Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference: Anyone and everyone who cares about clean water in the Delaware River and the Delaware Watershed region is invited to Centenary University March 30th. Partners in the DRWI initiative will be hosting workshops for participants to learn how we can best work to protect its resources: conserve, restore, protect, educate, inform and bring communities together to defend and share this important resource.

Mr. Tarlowe has been asked if Environmental Commission members would like to join the Green Team. Mr. Jewell offered an overview of Green Team efforts including projects, ordinances, the work and the time consuming projects. Mr. Tarlowe asked about tangible benefits to Green Team membership, and the responses are learning about rain barrel gardening and other beneficial projects, ordinances, energy uses, community involvement, and much more. Anyone interested should contact Ms. Fascenelli for further details.

Commission members discussed communicating information to the community via school newsletter, local radio station, and the town website which is most often used to share police information with the public. Also, the newsletter that is included with tax bills contains current

local topics and can be utilized to disseminate information on environmental issues and Commission activities.

Correspondence: Natural Systems Utilities has notified this Commission of a Treatment Works Approval application for the Meadows at Mansfield Wastewater Treatment Facility. No action was taken.

Mr. McMekin shared information regarding the use of LED bulbs; several boxes of LED bulbs were donated anonymously through him. Mr. Watters suggested passing them out when people come to pay taxes. It was also suggested that LED bulbs be exchanged for fluorescent bulbs.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:**  
**March 14, 2019**